

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A surface emitting device having a bar-shaped light source, a light guiding plate for entering a light of the light source from a lateral end surface and emitting the light from an emissive surface, and a cover for supporting the bar-shaped light source and the light guiding plate,

wherein the cover is made of a metal plate having a spring characteristic, a substantially bracket-shaped cross sectional shape, a width of the bracket-shaped cover tapers toward an opening portion, and the cover covers the bar-shaped light source and the light guiding plate and pinches the light guiding plate by the opening portion of the bracket-shaped cover, so as to make the bar-shaped light source and the light guiding plate into close contact and support the bar-shaped light source and the light guide plate,

wherein a protrudent portion is provided on an upper inner surface of the bracket-shaped cover at a position corresponding to a top of the bar-shaped light source, so as to pinch the bar-shaped light source, and the opening portion of the bracket-shaped cover pinches the light guiding plate, thereby making the bar-shaped light source and the light guiding plate into close contact and supporting the bar-shaped light source and the light guide plate.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The surface emitting device, according to Claim 1, wherein a width of a distal end portion of the opening portion of the bracket-shaped cover is larger than a narrowest width of the cover.

4. (Previously Presented) The surface emitting device, according to Claim 1, wherein a reflective film for reflecting a light from the light source is provided in an inner surface of the metal plate which forms the cover.

5. (Previously Presented) The surface emitting device, according to Claim 1, wherein the metal plate which forms the cover is made of stainless steel with mirror finished surface by electrolytic polishing.

6. (Previously Presented) The surface emitting device, according to Claim 1, wherein the metal plate which forms the cover is made of chrome plated low alloy steel.

7. (Previously Presented) The surface emitting device, according to Claim 1, wherein projections for pinching the lateral end portion of the light guiding plate therebetween in the width direction are provided on the both ends of the cover, and the light guiding plate is positioned in a width direction by the projections.

8. (Previously Presented) The surface emitting device, according to Claim 1, wherein protrudent portions protruding in the width direction of the light guiding plate are formed in both ends of the cover, projections are extended respectively from the protrudent portions one of in a longitudinal direction of the light guiding plate and in a direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction of the respective protrudent portions, and a space between the projections is substantially identical to the width of the light guiding plate.

9. (Previously Presented) The surface emitting device, according to Claim 8, wherein the projections serve as fit portions for fixing the surface emitting device to a case.

10. (Previously Presented) The surface emitting device, according to Claim 9, wherein each of the projections is formed by a base extended from each end of the cover in a thickness direction of the light guiding plate, a fit plate extended from a distal end of the base in a longitudinal direction of the light guiding plate, a hook portion extended from an outward side of the fit plate and bent upwardly at a connected portion with the fit plate, and a hooked projection bent upward from a distal end portion of the fit plate.

11. (Original) A liquid crystal display, in which the surface emitting device according to Claim 1 is provided in front of a liquid crystal display element.

12. (Previously Presented) The surface emitting device, according to Claim 1, wherein the bracket-shaped cover tapers from a distal end portion of the opening portion toward a portion of the cover in which the width is narrowest.

13. (Previously Presented) A surface emitting device having a bar-shaped light source, a light guiding plate for entering a light of the light source from a lateral end surface and emitting the light from an emissive surface, and a cover for supporting the bar-shaped light source and the light guiding plate,

wherein the cover is made of a metal plate having a spring characteristic, the cover has a substantially bracket-shaped cross sectional shape in which a width of the bracket-shaped cover on a side of an opening portion is smaller than the width on the opposite side,

a protrudent portion is provided on an upper inner surface of the bracket-shaped cover at a position corresponding to a top of the bar-shaped light source so as to pinch the bar-shaped light source, and

the cover covers the bar-shaped light source and the light guiding plate and pinches the light guiding plate by the opening portion of the bracket-shaped cover.

14. (Previously Presented) The surface emitting device, according to Claim 13, wherein a width of a distal end portion of the opening portion of the bracket-shaped cover is larger than a narrowest width of the cover.

15. (Previously Presented) The surface emitting device, according to Claim 13, wherein a reflective film for reflecting a light from the light source is provided in an inner surface of the metal plate which forms the cover.

16. (Previously Presented) The surface emitting device, according to Claim 13, wherein the metal plate which forms the cover is made of stainless steel with mirror finished surface by electrolytic polishing.

17. (Previously Presented) The surface emitting device, according to Claim 13, wherein the metal plate which forms the cover is made of chrome plated low alloy steel.

18. (Previously Presented) The surface emitting device, according to Claim 13, wherein projections for pinching the lateral end portion of the light guiding plate therebetween in the width direction are provided on the both ends of the cover, and the light guiding plate is positioned in a width direction by the projections.

19. (Previously Presented) The surface emitting device, according to Claim 13, wherein protrudent portions protruding in the width direction of the light guiding plate are formed in both ends of the cover, projections are extended respectively from the protrudent portions one of in a longitudinal direction of the light guiding plate and in a direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction of the respective protrudent portions, and a space between the projections is substantially identical to the width of the light guiding plate.

20. (Previously Presented) The surface emitting device, according to Claim 19, wherein the projections serve as fit portions for fixing the surface emitting device to a case.

21. (Previously Presented) The surface emitting device, according to Claim 20, wherein each of the projections is formed by a base extended from each end of the cover in a thickness direction of the light guiding plate, a fit plate extended from a distal end of the base in a longitudinal direction of the light guiding plate, a hook portion extended from an outward side of the fit plate and bent upwardly at a connected portion with the fit plate, and a hooked projection bent upward from a distal end portion of the fit plate.

22. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display, in which the surface emitting device according to Claim 13 is provided in front of a liquid crystal display element.